

The INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

Free mobile app facilitates submission of crime tips

Crime fighting Tipsters now have enhanced capabilities to assist law enforcement solve cases and make their communities safer by using a mobile app called P3Tips. The creator of the original TIPS software also produced this version, which allows uploading of photos, videos, audio and documents related to crime information.

The Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline introduced this mobile app at the beginning of the year, after migrating all the information from the existing software to this new system. They have already noticed a significant increase in tips. One of the first tips received helped clear a fugitive out of Sugar Creek, MO. The ATF was also able to arrest a woman in connection with setting fires in Kansas City, KS.

Detective Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator, said, "It's been very successful. Actually, the largest Crime Stoppers in the United States was one of the first to use this system and was able to solve a homicide from one of the first tips they received. The tip submission had included a video."

He said, "For a lot of years Tipsters asked why we don't have an app. Our reply was that we could never ensure the anonymity of our tipsters, and now we can."

The app is available free of charge on Google Play and Apple iOS platforms and is fully functional on smartphones, tablets, laptops and desktops. Were someone to pick up the phone or tablet where it is installed, the icon merely shows P3, rendering it unrecognizable as a TIPS application.

Boehm said this software is more user-friendly and interactive for tipsters. After downloading the app, local users can set their location to the Greater Kansas City TIPS Hotline. They then choose items from several drop-down menus, populate entries and hit send. The information goes directly to the local call center, which is Detective Boehm's phone, 24-hours-a-day. This allows for real-time information sharing within TIPS and investigators in



the Kansas City Region, including both sides of the state line and the FBI. Detectives submit updates, which are immediately posted in the system, eliminating the need for Boehm to retype and manually enter the data.

Tipsters will still be automatically assigned an anonymous number and can check their own status at any time. They no longer have to call in to speak with someone, but they still can. The functionality of P3Tips also allows users to check if they are due a reward.

While there has been an increase in tips since the mobile app has been available, the phone tips remain consistent, averaging about 5,000 per year.

"The Indianapolis coordinator switched a little over a year ago. They usually receive about 3,500 per year and in calendar year 2016 had collected almost 7,500 tips. That's more than double his tip volume, which is really impressive," Boehm said.

The Text-A-Tip program will be eliminated but schools are currently being educated and will migrate to the app. Several have requested to have it automatically downloaded to the computers issued to students at the beginning of the school year.

Criteria for reward payouts, which have reached almost 1.5 million dollars, remain the same. The crime must be a felony; with up to \$2,000 paid for information resulting in an arrest or filing of charges. With fundraisers as the source of the money, departments don't have to come up with it.

Boehm says he loves his job and is proud

that 627 homicides have been solved in the program's history. He said, "I want to be a resource to law enforcement. I love supporting law enforcement and all of our partners."

Agencies can access the P3Tips.com website for tutorials, while tipsters can find useful videos on YouTube. Phone tips to 816-474-TIPS (8477) are still welcome.

Pg. 2 Police Foundation

Pg. 3 Greitens Visit
Sully Retires
Officially Speaking
Upcoming Events

Pg. 4 Save the Date:
A Call for Backup

Police Foundation approaching fundraising goal

The Police Foundation of Kansas City's mission is to make Kansas City one of the safest cities in America. They are a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation formed by citizens focused on reducing crime and making the community safer. The Foundation raises funds throughout the year and at the annual "A Call for Back Up" event in support of KCPD, furnishing funds that aren't available within the department's existing or projected budgets.

With the Kansas City Royals' General Manager Dayton Moore acting as the keynote speaker, more than 70 sworn and non-sworn KCPD members will serve as ambassadors at the upcoming Annual Police Foundation of Kansas City's (PFKC) fundraising dinner and auction event on February 24. "A Call for Backup" has become an alternate source for the Kansas City Missouri Police Department in funding equipment and technology the department wouldn't have otherwise.

"All of the equipment we purchase must have a nexus to helping in reducing violent crimes," said Ron Fletcher, CEO and President of the Police Foundation. "We cannot purchase equipment that is a normal budget line item such as computers, flashlights, cars, guns, etc.," he added.

The Foundation has purchased well over a million dollars worth of equipment, technology and training over the last two years. One of the biggest purchases made is software that allows the department to record over 150 traffic cameras at major intersections throughout the city. The Foundation purchased this software because, in 2015, several homicides occurred in purview of these cameras but they weren't recording. The Foundation spent a little over \$93,000 in November 2015, purchasing traffic camera video storage, guaranteeing all that footage is now recorded.

"This is important because it will either capture the actual assault or murder or capture the suspect's vehicle or the suspect leaving the scene of a violent attack," said Fletcher. "In turn, hopefully the department will be able to use that footage to help capture the suspects," he added.

"There is a ton of support for the men and women of KCPD," Fletcher said. "A lot of citizens out there want to ensure that officers have current, state of the art equipment, technology and training so they can perform their duties much more efficiently and effectively."



Dr. Kristine Strouf presented a \$5,000 check to Ron Fletcher, CEO and President of the Police Foundation and Chairman Jerry Reece on Jan. 10 which is included in the amount raised already this year for the "Call for Backup" event.

After the program is explained to potential donors and what the Foundation does in supporting the KCPD, Fletcher says it is very indicative of what happens, people just open their wallets.

This is no different for Dr. Kristine Strouf, owner of Healing Well Chiropractic, an Integrity Verified Doctor endorsed by Troy Aikman. Dr. Strouf is a huge supporter of law enforcement and recently donated

\$5,000 to the Foundation.

Dr. Strouf has been a fan of the police department for over 10 years and has helped keep over 100 officers healthy through her chiropractic care. She has been donating to the department in some capacity for many years beginning with the CARE Team and recently with the Police Foundation.

"The more people I can educate not only on chiropractic, but also the importance of officer's health, wellness and maintaining their wellness so that they can be out there keeping us and our families safe, I want to do that," said Strouf.

So far, the Foundation has raised over \$550,000 of their \$605,000 goal for the 2017 "A Call for Backup" event and is hoping to exceed \$600,000 by the day of the event. Additionally, the city is adding \$350,000 in matching funds closing in on just under a million dollars already during this campaign.

"I really feel that the entire community needs to become aware of how important this is and how much help we can give to the police," said Jerry Reece, Chair of the Board of Directors. "Anything that we as a Foundation can

do, anything that I can personally do to help the police is what I want."

Backing for the Foundation has continued to grow thanks to its leadership and 19 board members that also reach out to their own business contacts, friends and family to help solicit other people for funds to help support the police department.

"After being a police officer for 25 years, I knew there were members of the community that supported us, but I never knew to the degree until taking over as President of the Police Foundation", Fletcher said. "It is just humbling to see how many business owners and people in KC support KCPD by opening their wallets and giving of their time."

"Anything that we as a Foundation can do, anything that I can personally do to help the police is what I want."

**- Jerry Reece
Chair of the Board of Directors**

Governor Greitens visits KCPD



Governor-Elect Eric Greitens visited the Kansas City Regional Police Academy on January 3 as part of his Heart of Missouri Service Tour. Greitens, a combat veteran and former Navy SEAL who served four tours overseas, worked out with entrant and TRT officers and then delivered remarks of thanks to first responders.

“Being given the opportunity to not only meet Governor Greitens, but also participate in a physical training session with him was what I would consider a once in a lifetime event. In a time where it appears public opinion is often highly critical of all aspects of law enforcement, it is refreshing to feel the unwavering support of our state’s leader,” said Officer Erik Enderlin, Tactical Response Team II.

Sully retires



Mounted Patrol Horse O’Sullivan, lovingly referred to as Sully, retired on January 18. He was named after fallen Officer John O’Sullivan and had worked in the Mounted Patrol section for the last eight years. Officer O’Sullivan’s daughter, Maureen O’Sullivan Darr, came in from New York and was on hand to celebrate Sully’s last day. The unit hosted a retirement party for him complete with a special cake of molasses, oats, carrots and peppermint. Sully will spend retirement with his original owners. His partner, Officer Jake Emig, said Sully has promised to periodically post retirement pictures to his widely popular Instagram account.

Upcoming Events

February 14
**Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting**

February 24
A Call For Backup

The Informant is a
publication of KCPD’s
Media Unit
(816) 234-5170
www.kcpd.org

The mission of the
Kansas City Missouri
Police Department is to
protect and serve with
professionalism, honor
and integrity.

Officially Speaking

Awards

Meritorious Service Award

Detective Antonio Garcia
Sergeant Ronald Hunter
Canine Zina

Life-Saving Award

Officer Jonathan Best

Retirement

Officer Gregory Olson

25-Year Rings

Master Detective James Agnew
Officer Dennis Coates
Sergeant Garry Eastwood
Detective Brad Evans
Major Daniel Gates
Sergeant Robert Gibbs
Sergeant James Gottstein
Sergeant Jack Henry

Captain Charles Huth
Sergeant Brad Lemon
Detective Marc Lombardo
Sergeant Michael Luster
Officer Dennis Mason
Officer Michael Mezzacasa
Deputy Chief Karl Oakman
Officer James Payton
Sergeant Lee Richards
Sergeant Robert Rickett
Sergeant Richard Sharp
Detective Laura Snapp
Major Gregory Volker
Detective Darrin Walton

Obituaries

Retired Deputy Chief James Keiter
Retired Sergeant John Walker
Retired Officer Joseph Reed
Retired Officer Andrew Daniels
Retired Civilian Diane Stivers
Retired Civilian Lessie Winfield

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2017 • 5:30-9:30 P.M.
THE MUEHLEBACH HOTEL • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

A CALL FOR BACKUP

**A BENEFIT FOR THE
POLICE FOUNDATION OF KANSAS CITY**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER DAYTON MOORE

The Police Foundation of Kansas City, a 501(c)(3), raises funds for strategic initiatives that the Department cannot purchase with existing funds. Projects have included specialized forensic training for homicide detectives and portable surveillance cameras.

FOR PATRON & TABLE INFORMATION:

Ron Fletcher, President
Police Foundation of Kansas City
816.719.8327
R.Fletcher@PoliceFoundationKC.org
policefoundationkc.org

Kansas City Missouri Police Department
1125 Locust
Kansas City, MO 64106